

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

State of the Water Management System

Water Shortage Edition



Weekly Update

November 12 - 16, 2007

**Mission Statement:**

To underscore our commitment to keep you informed, we will send this update weekly. We encourage you to share this water resources information with your constituents.



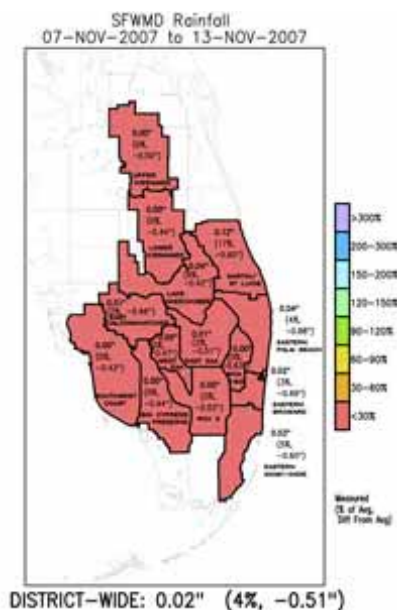
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District News and Happenings

- In response to a wet season that did little to alleviate the ongoing water shortage, District staff today recommended that the District Governing Board move to increase water restrictions at their next monthly meeting on December 13. Staff recommendations included limiting lawn irrigation to one day a week and setting lower water use goals for agriculture, golf courses and nurseries.
- The District partnered with the City of Pahokee to dredge Pahokee Harbor, which is a navigable waterway in Lake Okeechobee that provides substantial benefits to the City of Pahokee. As a result of several hurricanes over the past few years, sediments have refilled the marina. From recent survey information, approximately six feet of sediment needed to be removed to regain its original capacity. The City of Pahokee is currently funding \$650,000 toward removing the accumulated sediment. The District funded \$450,000 for the project. The project will also help reduce the amount of phosphorus-laden sediments in Lake Okeechobee, as well as enhancing access and recreational activities in the lake.
- To increase the numbers of apple snails found in the wild, the District is collaborating with the aquaculture team at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution on a snail-hatching project. The native apple snail is a primary food source for the endangered Snail Kite, a predatory bird native to the Everglades and Lake Okeechobee. By raising large numbers of snail eggs in the laboratory, researchers will reintroduce the snails to their native habitat and improve survival of the endangered kites.

System-Wide Overview

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Rainfall overview:

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was 0.02 inches.
- A cold front is expected to sweep through Florida on Thursday, leading to dry and cooler conditions that will prevail through the weekend.
- The rainfall outlook for the next seven days is below average.

U.S. Drought Monitor:

The [Drought Monitor](#) focuses on broad-scale conditions and identifies general drought areas, labeling droughts by intensity. This week, areas of the District fall into four levels of intensity, ranging from normal to severe drought.

Lake Okeechobee:

Lake Okeechobee measured 10.33 feet NGVD 29 (9.03 feet NAVD 88) on Tuesday, which is 0.04 feet lower than it was on that day last week and 0.23 feet higher than it was a month ago. The current stage is 2.21 feet lower than it was a year ago and remains almost 5 feet below its historical average for this time of year. Surface inflows are down from last week due to declining flow from the Kissimmee River. Continued high winds prevented completion of the November submerged aquatic vegetation survey last week.

Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin:

The Kissimmee Basin received no rain over the past seven days. During the last week, water levels in the upper basin lakes were steady, although the water level in Lake Kissimmee fell approximately 0.1 feet.

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries:

Salinity increased in the St. Lucie Estuary over the past week, which improved conditions. Based on the salinity tolerance of oysters, salinity conditions in the estuary are good to fair. Average salinity increased in the upper Caloosahatchee Estuary last week. Salinity conditions are good to the west of Cape Coral and poor in the upper estuary.

Water Conservation Areas (WCAs):

Rainfall throughout the WCAs was negligible. Water depths decreased between 0.05 and 0.22 feet in the WCAs. Water depths are typically between 2 and 3 feet

at this time of year. However, WCA-1 and WCA-2A are just barely above 2 feet, and WCA-3 has less than 2 feet of water.

Everglades National Park:

The Park received about 0.03 inches of rain during the past week. Wetland water levels decreased this week between 0.8 and 2 inches.

Note: This rainfall information is based on rain gauges within the Park. The map above captures District rain gauge data only.

Florida Bay:

Salinity either increased slightly or remained stable last week.

Area Water Restrictions:



Click map for larger image

[Upper and Lower East Coast Service Areas, which comprise the residential areas of St. Lucie, Martin, eastern Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties - Modified Phase II Mandatory Water Use Restrictions](#)

Phase II water restrictions target outdoor water use, limiting lawn watering for five acres or less, to two days a week: Wednesdays and Saturdays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for odd numbered addresses; Thursdays and Sundays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for even-numbered addresses. Restrictions for land greater than five acres and other guidelines are available on the latest Just the [FACTs sheet](#). The Phase II restrictions in this region apply to users who get their water from public utilities, private wells, canals, ponds and lakes.

[Lake Worth, Lantana, Hallandale and Dania Beach Water Utilities - Modified Phase III Mandatory Water Use Restrictions](#)

These utilities have been identified as at risk for saltwater intrusion based on elevated chloride levels in monitoring wells. The modified Phase III restrictions limit all landscape irrigation or five acres or less to one day per week and four hours per day: Saturdays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for odd numbered addresses; Sundays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for even-numbered addresses. Restrictions on all other uses of water will be lifted. Users in the City of West Palm Beach will be included as part of this declaration, in concurrence with a SFWMD emergency

order that allows the City, under specific conditions, to deliver water supplied from the L-8 Reservoir or from the City's emergency well field to Clear Lake to replenish the City's drinking water supply. The modified Phase III restrictions limit all landscape irrigation to one day per week and four hours per day; restrictions on all other uses of water will be lifted. Restrictions for land greater than five acres and other guidelines are available on the latest Just the [FACTs sheet](#).

Residents served by **West Palm Beach Utilities** continue to be covered by [City of West Palm Beach Restrictions](#), which limit *all outside uses* of water -- including washing cars or boats -- to 1 day per week.

Lake Okeechobee Service Area - Phase III Mandatory Water Use Restrictions

Phase III water use restrictions predominantly impact predominantly impact agricultural, industrial and commercial water users in parts of Hendry, Glades, Okeechobee, Lee, Martin, St. Lucie and western Palm Beach counties. They also apply to residential users whose water source is Lake Okeechobee - or any of the surface water canals recharged by the lake - and includes utility customers in South Bay, Belle Glade, Pahokee, Okeechobee and Clewiston. North Lee County Utility service area customers are also affected by this order because they rely on the Olga Treatment Plant which draws water from Lake Okeechobee via the Caloosahatchee River. Agricultural water users in these areas are required to reduce surface water consumption by 45 percent. Residential users must limit lawn watering, boat and car washing to one day per week: Saturdays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for odd numbered addresses; Sundays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for even-numbered addresses. Groundwater sources (wells) are not restricted by this order.

Lake Istokpoga Area/Upper Indian Prairie Basin (portions of Highlands and Glades counties) - Phase III Mandatory Water Use Restrictions

Effective May 11, permitted agricultural and other area users who withdraw water directly from surface water sources connected to Lake Istokpoga will transition to Phase III water restrictions in incremental stages as the water level of Lake Istokpoga continues to drop below specified thresholds. Users were notified of the specific tiers representing 35 and 45 percent cutbacks and are encouraged to voluntarily exercise additional water conservation measures as practicable.

Lee, Collier, Hendry, and Glades Counties: portion of Charlotte County - Phase II Mandatory Water Use Restrictions

Phase II restrictions remain in place in Lee, Collier, Hendry and Glades counties, along with a portion of Charlotte County, limiting lawn watering and car washing to two days a week: Wednesdays and Saturdays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for odd-numbered addresses; Thursdays and Sundays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for even-numbered addresses.

These limitations and other actions and are intended to produce a 30 percent water use reduction by agricultural, industrial, commercial, golf course, landscaping and residential water users. The Phase II restrictions in this region apply to users who get their water from public utilities, private wells, canals, ponds and lakes.

Phase II and Phase III restrictions allow low-volume, spot-watering using a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the designated landscape watering days. Additional watering days and times also have been allowed for new landscaping over a 30-day establishment period.

The use of 100 percent reclaimed water, an alternative water source, is not subject to restrictions. The use of water for health, fire, safety and other essential purposes also is not restricted.

Did you know?

The South Florida Water Management District manages and protects the water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. Want to hear more? It would be our pleasure to meet with your organization to give a presentation and answer your questions. If interested, please contact Niki Spencer at 800-432-2045 or 561-686-8800, ext. 6004.

** SFWMD water managers and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work together to manage Lake Okeechobee. Water releases from the lake are made in accordance with a federally authorized regulation schedule based on many factors such as time of year, current water conditions, predicted rainfall and lake level.*